Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 is a representation of the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:17) and the predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:18) of *NaPdf1* (*Nicotiana alata* plant defensin 1), the cDNA encoding the floral defensin from *Nicotiana alata.* Only one strand with the polarity of the mRNA is shown and the nucleotides are numbered above. The amino acid sequence, shown in single letter code, is given below the nucleotide sequence and is numbered beginning with 1 for the first amino acid of the mature protein. The putative signal peptide is indicated by negative numbers and is underlined. The mature protein is boxed ~~highlighted~~ and arrows depict the predicted cleavage sites of the signal peptide and the end of the mature protein. The first stop codon is marked with an asterisk (*) and the two polyadenylation sites are in bold. For further detail, refer to Example 7.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 27 and ending at page 24, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

~~**Figure 12 shows**~~ **Figures 12A-12C** show growth inhibition curves of various agents against *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. dianthi* (12A) and *F. oxysporum f. sp. vasinfectum* (12B and 12C), as monitored by absorbance at 595 nm. Each treatment was performed in quadruplicate. Purified NaPdf1 protein at 20 µg/ml (12A and 12B) and 10 µg/ml (12C) were assayed. Water and ovalbumin (20 µg/ml, 12A and 12B; 10 µg/ml, 12C) served as negative controls, and a mixture of the antifungal proteins α- and β-purothionin (20 µg/ml, 12A and 12B; 10 µg/ml, 12C) was used as a positive control.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 15 shows~~ **Figures 15A-15D** show growth curves for *H. punctigera* and *H. armigera* fed on transgenic *N. tabacum* leaves (lines pHEX3.4 and pFL1/W19) transformed with the NaPdf1 gene and an untransformed W38 parent plant. (**15A**) Survival of *H. punctigera* larvae, measured between days 2 and 18, (**15B**) the average mean weight of *H. punctigera* larvae measured between days 7 and 18, (**15C**) survival of *H. armigera* larvae measured between days 3 and 23, (**15D**) the average mean weight of *H. armigera* larvae measured between days 6 and 23.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 73, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Growth inhibition curves, set out in Figures 11 and ~~12~~ 12A-12C, show the effect of purified NaPdf1 defensin protein against *B. cinerea* (Figure 11), *F. oxysporum* (*f. sp. dianthi*, Figure 12A) and *F. oxysporum* (*f. sp. vasinfectum*, Figures 12B and 12C), respectively. The results clearly indicate the effectiveness of 20 µg/mL of NaPdf1 against all three fungal pathogens.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 76, line 28 and ending at page 77, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

In experiments 1 and 2, 31 and 40 newly hatched *Helicoverpa punctigera* larvae were selected for each treatment, respectively. The larvae were reared in individual plastic cups with lids (Solo (registered trademark) plastic portion cups, 28 mL) containing 1.5% w/v Bacto agar and were fed leaf segments that were replaced either every 2-3 days or when more than 75% had been consumed. The amount of leaf material was increased as the larvae reached 5th instar. Young leaves from non-flowering plants were used in all bioassays. To avoid a wounding response, the leaves were freshly excised from the petiole with a clean scalpel blade and were divided into sections (2 x 2 cm) by careful dissection between the major veins to minimize any wound response in the leaf sections. The larvae were kept in a controlled temperature room of 24 ± 1°C, under light. The weights of the larvae were measured every 2-3 days

until day 23 and the mean weight calculated. In experiment 3, 40 *H. armigera* larvae were used under the same conditions described for the *H. punctigera* bioassays. Results are shown in ~~Figure 15~~ Figures 15A-15D.